

12/10/54

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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BEDWELLTY



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

&

Chief Public Health Inspector



Year ended 31st. December, 1956.

BEDWELLTY



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

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Chief Public Health Inspector



Year ended 31st. December, 1956.

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1957

Chairman: - Councillor G. M. Harries, B.A., J.P.

Vice-Chairman: - Councillor E. G. Hodges

MEMBERS

Alderman E. Thomas, J.P.	Councillor W. Hardacre.
Councillor J. Salway.	" I. J. Bowen.
" W. Davies.	" F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
" P. Bullen, D.F.C.	" T. I. Davies.
" D. Davies.	" E. J. Butler.
" G. H. Thomas.	" G. H. Hawker.
" E. Johns.	" J. Coleman.
" J. D. Turner.	" Mrs. H. Baker
" S. T. Williams.	" R. J. Nash.
" Lewis Lewis.	

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: - Councillor J. D. Turner.

Vice-Chairman: - Councillor G. H. Thomas.

Alderman E. Thomas, J.P.	Councillor T. I. Davies.
Councillor Lewis Lewis.	" J. Coleman.
" D. Davies.	" S. T. Williams.
" E. G. Hodges.	" W. Davies.
" F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.	" W. Hardacre.
" I. J. Bowen.	

Clerk to the Council: - D. Hilton Lewis, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	Dr. Richard Hoey, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	Dan Powell, M.B.E., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I. (Qualified Meat and Foods Inspector)
Public Health Inspector	...	...	A. M. Coleman, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health Inspector & Shops Inspector	...	...	E. J. Francis, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Rodent Operator	..	...	Clifford Shelton.
Clerk	...	...	Selwyn Davies.
Student Clerk (29th April, 1957)	...	...	Garry Gane.
Mortuary & Post Mortem Attendant (Part-Time)	...	...	Elias Jones

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1956

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	7,353
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	31,088
(Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	30,970
(Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	28,826
Estimated population for Birth & Death Rates 1956	...	...	...	...	...	28,040
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/56)	...	...	...	...	...	7,539
Number of persons per house	...	...	...	...	...	3.7
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	£162,132
Product of Penny Rate, 1956-57	...	...	...	...	...	£590
Number of Births	...	...	...	...	...	537
Net Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	19.15
Number of illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of Deaths of residents	...	...	...	...	...	313
Net Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.16
Number of Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	18
Of these there were illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infantile mortality, per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	...	33.5
Number of women dying from childbirth	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Deaths from all forms of Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of Deaths from all forms of Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	108
Number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	41
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumoconiosis	...	...	...	...	...	11

<u>Year</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1948	703	325
1949	642	338
1950	626	319
1951	577	394
1952	563	300
1953	554	333
1954	534	327
1955	492	319
1956	537	313

BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Municipal Offices,

Aberbargoed,

Bargoed, Glam.

6th June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bedwellty Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

I would like at the end of this year, my seventh in your employment, to re-examine those vital statistics by which the sanitary circumstances of an area are considered to be best evaluated, the Infantile Mortality and Tuberculosis Rates.

The Infantile Mortality figure of 33.5 per thousand live births, the lowest on record, is encouraging; but, if the average over the last three years is taken (thus providing a significant figure), it will be seen that the figure is unduly high compared with Monmouthshire, Wales and England and Wales.

The tables which accompany this report on pages 17/19 which were kindly supplied to me by Dr. T. T. Baird, Regional Medical Officer, Welsh Board of Health, show that Bedwellty's high Infant Mortality rate is shared by other towns of the Welsh coalfield, but not to the same extent by towns of a comparable (social) population elsewhere. The cause of this difference is very puzzling, and although some of my colleagues have given possible reasons for it, these reasons do not appear very convincing. Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones, County Medical Officer of Health, who more than shares my concern in the matter, has asked me to carry out a detailed investigation in my area, which I propose to start in the Autumn and pursue intensively for twelve months.

The picture in Tuberculosis is encouraging although by no means satisfactory. The figure of eighteen new cases of adult pulmonary Tuberculosis (15 years or over) is the lowest on record and there seems to be a marked improvement in the County which proves it to be significant. It will be seen from the accompanying table on page 16 that adult pulmonary cases are down to two fifths of what they were twelve years ago, the increased juvenile cases signify improved contact examinations. These cases are rarely serious. The smaller number of fresh notifications combined with the quicker cure, due to the new drugs, has had the favourable repercussion of releasing more nursing staff for geriatric and chronic cases, mental deficiency and other conditions whose home care has proved such a thorny problem in the past, also mass X ray and contact examinations have, plus education, led to cases coming sooner for treatment, thus being less severe.

How has this happy state of affairs developed? I think I can sum it up in one word, "teamwork". There is no doubt that the three major

components of the National Health Service, the Public Health Service, the hospitals, and the family doctors, have sunk their differences and all combined together, against the common foe. For further details, I recommend careful perusal of Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones's article in "The Medical Officer" of 25th November, 1955, in which, among others, the Area Medical Officers and the Public Health Inspectors receive their share of the praise. I would also like to pay my tribute to members of the two Councils, who have, both collectively and individually, co-operated so splendidly.

I think that "The Pneumoconiosis and Byssanosis Regulations" 1952 and 1954, which granted compensation to totally and partially disabled miners respectively, have also played a big part in the process. A great number of miners have attended medical boards in Cardiff and a fair number of them have proved to be open cases of Tuberculosis; and have thus ceased to be the danger that they were previously (having either improved with treatment or learned preventive measures) and although for a time this resulted in a greater number of new cases, we are now beginning to enjoy the statistical benefit.

It is also my proud privilege to record that this Area has led the way. In 1949, soon after my appointment, I started case visiting finding apathy and cynicism in many instances and complete ignorance of the situation in others. Gradually, the situation has changed, and with the prospect of better and quicker treatment, B.C.G. and improved housing (Bedwellty Urban District Council has given top priority) the attitude and behaviour of the population has now completely changed. In 1953, Professor F. R. G. Heaf, whose fame is world-wide, asked me to try out some French freeze-dried B.C.G. on the ladies at St. Margaret's Clothing Factory, and this was successfully accomplished together with accurate records and Mass Radiography. This year I also carried out a pilot scheme on B.C.G. for school leavers. Although I have not been able yet to produce a stage play on Tuberculosis, Mrs. Gilford of Monmouthshire County Council Health Visiting Service has managed to do one at Pontypool and my puppet play has had over twenty performances including London and Grantham and been seen by not less than four thousand people. But this is not enough and still far more effective propaganda is required.

One unfortunate backwash from the tide of progress has developed in the case of streptomycin deafness. Two boys in the area who have been treated for a disease hitherto invariably fatal, Tuberculous Meningitis, have recovered intact except for complete loss of hearing. Both have been to the Government Training Centre, Cardiff, and have been found suitable for fairly skilled mechanical work. Partly owing to apprenticeship regulations and partly due to lack of suitable employment in the area, they remain unrehabilitated and thus provide a pathetic challenge to the Welfare State with its present equipage.

Finally, I would like to quote a few lines from William Cowper's "The Progress of Error":-

None sends his arrow to the mark in view,
Whose hand is feeble, or his aim untrue.

For though, ere yet the shaft is on the wing,
Or when it first forsakes the elastic string,
It err but little from the intended line,
It falls at last far wide of his design;
So he who seeks a mansion in the sky,
Must watch his purpose with a steadfast eye;
That prize belongs to none but the sincere,
The least obliquity is fatal here.

I am, Mrs. Baker & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. HOEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

B I R T H S 1 9 5 6

The births registered during the year:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	276	242
Illegitimate	6	13
Totals	<u>282</u>	<u>255</u>

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	19.15
Percentage illegitimate to legitimate	...	...	3.75
Stillbirths	...	...	20

Births for the previous years may be compared:

<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
703	642	626	577	563	554	534	492	537

D E A T H S 1 9 5 6

No. of deaths during year ... 313

The death rate after correction of inward and outward transfers ... 11.16

Death rate for the previous years may be compared:

<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
11.31	11.69	11.00	13.78	10.51	11.68	11.55	11.34	11.16

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	8
1 - 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	2
2 - 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	1
3 - 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total under one month						<u>11</u>
1 - 3 months	...	...	...	...	...	2
3 - 6 months	...	...	...	...	...	4
6 - 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	1
9 - 12 months	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total						<u>7</u>

COMPARISON OF INFANTILE MORTALITY

Bedwellty Urban District	...	...	...	33.5 per 1,000 births
Monmouth County	...	...	...	28.96 per 1,000 births
England and Wales	...	...	...	23.8 per 1,000 births

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES

N I L

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Per 1,000 births (Live and Still):

Bedwellty	...	...	...	...	0
Monmouth County	...	...	...	...	1.07

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1956

Cause	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-
Measles	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	1	-
Parasite Disease	-	-
Cancer (Stomach)	4	6
Cancer (Lung)	6	-
Cancer (Breast)	-	1
Cancer (Uterus)	-	4
Cancer (Other Sites)	8	12
Leukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	25	18
Coronary Disease - Angina	27	19
Hypertension with heart disease	1	5
Other heart diseases	24	22
Other Circulatory diseases	5	5
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	7	1
Bronchitis	26	8
Other respiratory diseases	12	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
Congenital malformation	2	2
Other defined and illdefined diseases	16	15
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1
Other Accidents	11	1
Suicide	-	-
Totals	190	123

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR

CAUSE	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total
PNEUMONITIS	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
PNEUMONIA	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
CIRCULATORY DISEASES	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
GASTRO ENTERITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
BRONCHITIS	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
OTHER CAUSES	2	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	7
TOTAL	8	2	1	-	2	4	2	1	18

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis

<u>MALES</u>			
Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Labourer	1	-	1
School Age	6	-	6
Under School Age	1	-	1
Factory Worker	1	-	1
Miner	7	3	10
N.C.B. Trainee	-	1	1
Coal Merchant	1	-	1
Steel Plater	1	-	1
<u>FEMALES</u>			
Housewife	3	-	3
Shop Assistant	1	-	1
Factory Worker	1	-	1
School Age	3	-	3

HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM TREATMENT
OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged
Cefn Mably	5	6	-	-
Glan Ely	6	8	-	1
Energlyn	3	6	-	-
S. Wales San., Talgarth	12	10	-	-
Gelligaer Hospital	9	10	-	-
Memorial Ward, Chepstow	3	5	-	-
N. Wales San., Denbigh	-	-	-	-
Sully Hospital	7	4	-	-
City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff	2	3	1	-
Adelina Patti, Swansea	1	2	-	-
Kensington Hospital	-	1	-	-
West Wales Sanitorium	-	-	-	-
Mardy Hospital	-	1	-	-
	48	56	1	1

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF
NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases	Non-Pulmonary Cases
January	2	-
February	3	-
March	2	-
April	2	-
May	2	-
June	1	2
July	1	1
August	3	-
September	4	-
October	-	-
November	3	1
December	3	-
	26	4

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS
FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE
LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1947	35	16
1948	36	19
1949	42	19
1950	32	15
1951	46	10
1952	38	9
1953	34	11
1954	37	2
1955	38	3
1956	26	3

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during 1956

Age Period in Years	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	Total
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	5	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	4	-	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	-	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	3	-
65 & over	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18	8	26	4	-	4	1	2	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN
REGISTRATION WARDS AND QUARTERS DURING 1956

Notifiable Disease	Totals	Phillips-town	New Tredegar	Aberbar goed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush	QUARTERS			
											1	2	3	4
Scarlet Fever	9	-	1	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	4	3	2	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	20	-	-	1	4	5	9	-	1	-	4	9	3	4
Measles	115	1	25	49	3	7	17	-	10	3	4	32	13	66
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	150	1	27	50	10	16	31	1	11	3	14	46	18	72

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM
INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												DEATHS													
	AGE GROUPS												AGE GROUPS													
	under 1 yr	1 - 2 yrs	2 - 3 yrs	3 - 4 yrs	4 - 5 yrs	5 -10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 & Over	Total all ages	under 1 yr	1 - 2 yrs	2 - 3 yrs	3 - 4 yrs	4 - 5 yrs	5 -10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 & Over	Total all ages
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Whooping Cough	1	3	2	3	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	8	11	16	18	9	52	1	-	-	-	-	-	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	15	19	21	13	62	4	1	1	1	3	-	150	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS DURING THE LAST 12 YEARS

YEAR	AGE GROUP		
	1 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15 years & over
1945	1	-	41
1946	-	3	35
1947	-	1	38
1948	4	6	26
1949	2	4	37
1950	2	1	29
1951	3	4	29
1952	1	1	36
1953	3	4	25
1954	3	2	32
1955	-	4	34
1956	1	7	18

I N F A N T M O R T A L I T Y

Selected Urban Areas having a Comparable Population
with Bedwellty

AREA	E N G L A N D					
	1952		1953		1954	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births
Long Eaton (Derby C.C.)	10	23	22	52	9	24
Crook and Willington (Durham C.C.)	13	31	13	33	16	42
Crayford (Kent C.C.)	10	25	10	25	4	10
Bromsgrove (Worcester C.C.)	11	28	7	16	14	32
AREA	W A L E S					
	1952		1953		1954	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births
Mountain Ash (Glam. C.C.)	29	51	13	25	10	21
Llwchwr (Glam C.C.)	12	38	12	36	15	44
Rhyl (Flint C.C.)	11	39	13	49	8	28

AREA	Selected Industrial Areas (C.B.Cs)					
	1952		1953		1954	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Northumberland)	140	29	132	27	124	25
Tynemouth (Northumberland)	52	43	40	32	42	35
Birmingham (Warwicks)	495	27	482	26	440	24
Coventry (Warwicks)	132	32	142	33	127	30
Bradford (Yorks. W. Riding)	155	34	169	37	141	30
Liverpool (Lancs)	558	35	572	35	489	31
Barrow-in-Furness (Lancs.)	41	40	31	29	24	23

AREA	MONMOUTHSHIRE					
	1952		1953		1954	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births
<u>T.B.C.</u>						
Newport	61	35	57	32	47	29
<u>B.C.</u>						
Abergavenny	4	26	2	14	5	35
Monmouth	3	31	1	12	3	34
<u>U.D.C.</u>						
Abercarn	12	38	8	28	16	53
Abertillery	12	25	13	29	19	43
Bedwas & Machen	4	23	9	59	7	39
Bedwellty*	29*	51*	22*	40*	22*	40*
Blaenavon	3	24	5	36	7	67
Caerleon	1	11	4	56	1	16
Chepstow	5	63	3	32	1	9
Cwmbran	7	26	9	30	13	40
Ebbw Vale	14	30	16	35	17	38
Mynyddislwyn	17	54	10	34	12	42
Nantyglo & Blaina	11	53	5	25	7	40
Pontypool	19	27	23	34	31	49
Rhymney	1	8	4	27	5	38
Risca	1	5	6	29	6	26
Tredegar	16	49	18	51	16	49
Usk	2	72	-	-	-	-
<u>R.D.C.</u>						
Abergavenny	5	46	-	-	2	16
Chepstow	7	40	4	25	5	29
Magor & St. Mellons	6	24	8	34	6	27
Monmouth	3	35	-	-	4	42
Pontypool	3	38	5	47	2	19

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
(Telephone: Bargoed 2137)
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed, Glam.

6th June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the
work done in my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

NOTICES SERVED

1.	<u>Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 92 and 93)</u> (Abatement of nuisances, repairs to property)				
	Intimation Notices	...	...	...	215
	Abatement Notices	...	...	...	146
2.	<u>Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 24)</u> (Sewer maintenance)	...	...	...	2
3.	<u>Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 83)</u> (Cleansing of Premises)	...	...	...	19
4.	<u>Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 138) & Water Act, 1945</u> (Provision of adequate water supply to houses)...				12

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Below is a table showing the action taken during the year in the case of individually unfit houses (demolition, closure and repair).

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS

	No. of Houses	Number of Persons Displaced
1. <u>Housing Act, 1936</u>		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 11	Nil	Nil
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Sec. 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Sec.12)	Nil	Nil
2. <u>Housing Act, 1949</u>		
(a) Closing Orders made under Sec.3(1)	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Sec. 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
3. <u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</u>		
(a) Under Sec. 10 (1)	Nil	Nil

REPAIRS

<u>REPAIRS</u>						<u>No. of Houses</u>
<u>Informal Action</u>						
4.	Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health Act, 1936					78
<u>Action under Statutory Powers</u>						
5.	<u>Public Health Acts</u>					
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices						
	(a)	by owners	...	...	...	63
	(b)	by local authority on default of owners	...			Nil
6.	<u>Housing Act, 1936</u>					
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices						
	(a)	by owners	...	...	...	Nil
	(b)	by local authority on default of owners	...			Nil

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Number of applications received	... ..	1
Number of applications granted by the Council	...	1

COUNCIL HOUSES

During the year, your inspectors carried out inspection of Council houses in the area and records were kept as to condition of cleanliness, number of occupants and upkeep of gardens.

Notices were served on a few tenants to cleanse their premises. These notices were followed up by re-visits, and advice is offered when there is evidence of vermin, etc. - insecticides are given free to assist the tenant in disinfection.

If, during these visits, the Inspectors were of opinion that any children were in need of protection or instruction, the case was immediately reported to the local office of N.S.P.C.C. and to the Welfare Department of the County Council for their attention. A visit from these organisations generally brought about an improvement in the children and homes.

Number of routine inspections:	... ..	745 houses
Number of re-visits	... ..	56 houses

All prospective tenants for Council houses are visited by your inspectors and a report submitted to the Housing Manager (Mr. J.H. Walker)

Transfers of tenancies and vacant houses are also inspected and reported upon. The maintenance and repair of Council houses is under the control of the Housing Manager.

Number of prospective tenants visited and reports submitted to the Housing Manager	...	...	43
Number of transfers inspected	...	...	47
Empty houses inspected	...	...	14
Empty houses disinfested	...	...	Nil
Total number of inspections and visits made regarding Council houses and tenants	...	...	905

	No. of houses at 1. 5.57.
New Tredegar	57
Aberbargoed	519
Pengam	257
Cefn Fforest	314
Blackwood	630
Argoed	161
	1,938

LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

MAY, 1957

	In Apartments	Others	Total
New Tredegar	131	58	189
Aberbargoed	162	40	202
Pengam	91	60	151
Cefn Fforest	80	10	90
Blackwood	145	65	210
Argoed	91	21	112
Outside Areas	41	23	64
	741	277	1,018

POPULATION OF AREA

The population at April, 1957, was 28,040

Estimated population of each Ward:-

Phillipstown	1,839
New Tredegar & Cwmsyflog	4,167
Aberbargoed	4,891
Pengam & Fleur-de-lis	4,190
Cefn Fforest	2,632
Blackwood	6,633
Argoed	1,448
Markham	1,779
Hollybush	461
	<u>28,040</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries were made in cases of infectious diseases, and in some cases disinfection was carried out.

No. of inquiries made	...	...	11
No. of disinfections carried out			5

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one Common Lodging House in the District. The place is known as Bowen's Workmen's Home.

Inspections were made during the year and it was found necessary to serve notice to colour the walls and cleanse certain bedclothes. The notice was complied with.

WATER SUPPLY

There are no alterations in the source of supplies of water. The Rhymney Valley is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board, and the Sirhowy Valley portion is supplied by water purchased by the Council from the Tredegar Urban District Council.

12 samples of water were taken during the year and on analysis were proved satisfactory.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are no swimming pools in the Bedwellty Area, the nearest being at Bargoed and Pontllanfraith.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Both rivers in the Area are still being polluted by the collieries. The banks of the rivers are carefully watched for rat infestation and the Rodent Operators of the adjoining Councils co-operate with your Operator in the work of disinfection.

PET ANIMALS - SHOPS

There is only one shop in your district selling pets - Jones and Son, Aberbargoed. It is duly licensed.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year complaints were received regarding the grit nuisance from the Bargoed Power House. The nuisance mostly affects the residents in the Aberbargoed District, and the Bargoed and Gilfach portions of the Gelli-gaer Urban Area.

When interviewed, the Chief Engineer to the No. 5 Area of the N.C.B. informed the Council that the problem is associated with a No. 13 pulverised fuel fired boiler and that the N.C.B. are endeavouring to get a new

Grit Arrester, which will, in their opinion, abate the terrible nuisance.

At the time of making this Report, the nuisance still exists.

Measurement of the extent of aerial pollution is still carried out at the deposit gauge fixed at Commin Road, Aberbargoed. The samples show the deposit of grit, smoke and sulphur in the air over that particular area. The samples are analysed every month at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, and the results sent to our Department and to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, London. The gauge also records the rainfall in that particular spot.

The monthly results received are:-

					<u>Tons per square mile</u>
January	...	...	...	...	21.45
February	...	...	...	...	5.48
March	...	...	...	...	13.07
April	...	...	...	...	16.28
May ...	...	...	...	...	11.81
June...	...	...	...	...	15.85
July...	...	...	...	...	16.60
August	...	...	...	...	17.07
September	...	...	...	...	20.12
October	...	...	...	...	16.08
November	...	...	...	...	8.79
December	...	...	...	...	21.45

R A I N F A L L

I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. T. J. Jones, for the following information:-

Monthly Rainfall 1956

January	...	...	...	...	6.74 ins
February	...	...	...	...	0.33 "
March	...	...	...	...	1.75 "
April	...	...	...	...	1.99 "
May ...	...	...	...	...	1.82 "
June...	...	...	...	...	2.87 "
July...	...	...	...	...	6.46 "
August	...	...	...	...	5.08 "
September	...	...	...	...	7.01 "
October	...	...	...	...	2.29 "
November	...	...	...	...	1.84 "
December	...	...	...	...	8.98 "
Total					<u>47.16 ins</u>

Average rainfall since 1921	...	51.94 ins
Lowest rainfall in year since 1921 -		
1933	...	32.57 ins
Highest rainfall in year since 1921 -		
1954	...	68.66 ins

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

No. of factories with mechanical power	...	...	69
No. of factories without mechanical power	...	...	2
No. of outworkers	...	...	Nil
No. of inspections made	...	...	73

Inspections were made of all factories in the area during the year, with special reference to Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire) and with regard to adequate sanitary accommodation.

The inspections in respect of fire escape were carried out in co-operation with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Monmouthshire County Council, who, at all times, was ready to give the advantage of his special knowledge.

Generally speaking, the factories were well maintained and complied with the provisions of the Act.

At three factories it was necessary to serve notice to increase the number of sanitary conveniences.

INDUSTRIES IN THE AREA

Elliot Colliery, New Tredegar (Steam Coal)
Berlei, New Tredegar (Corsets)
Bargoed Collieries (Steam Coal)
Bargoed Power Station (Electricity)
Bargoed Engineering Central Works, Bargoed Colliery (Engineering)
N. Corah (St. Margaret) Ltd., Aberbargoed (Manufacturing Textiles)
Coke Ovens and By-Products, Bargoed.
Treforest Electrical Services, Aberbargoed (Electrical Equipment)
Britannia Colliery, Pengam (Steam Coal)
Budd's Colliery, Blackwood (Small House Coal)
Brown's Foundry, Blackwood (Variety of Castings)
Trimco, Ltd., Blackwood (Upholstery, etc.)
West Mon. Omnibus Board, Blackwood.
Remploy Factory, Blackwood (Cardboard Box and Rubber Mat Making)
Chastons Ltd., Blackwood (Motor Repairs, Painting, etc.)
Markham Colliery (Steam Coal)
Corocraft Ltd., (Wales) Pengam (Jewellery, etc.)

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

All cinemas in the area were inspected during the year. Sanitary accommodation at these premises is generally satisfactory.

Thanks are due to the Police for their close co-operation with the Department in the supervision of these premises. The Rodent Operator carried out disinfestation of rats in two cinemas.

CAMPING SITES

No sites were used for camping purposes and consequently, no action was necessary under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council are charged with carrying out pest infestation control work. A Government grant-in-aid of 50% of approved expenditure upon rodent control is made, in respect of treatment of private dwellings, sewers and local authority properties, subject to an efficient service being maintained by the local authority.

As required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, test baiting and treatment of sewers were carried out twice during the year. A labourer was engaged to assist the operator during the treatment period.

The operators of the Gelligaer Council and your operator conducted systematic campaigns in an effort to clear the banks of the Rhymney River, also your operator worked in close co-operation with the operator of the Bedwas and Machen Council to rid the land and buildings of rats at the Maesycwmmmer Slaughterhouse and the Bedwas refuse tip situated on land adjoining your area.

The farms in the area were inspected when threshing was in progress under the Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations, 1950. All farmers co-operated with the Department in this matter.

I would again like to record my appreciation for the help and advice of the Regional Planning and Advisory Committee (Infestation Control Division) and to the Divisional Control Officer, Mr. Richard Davies and staff.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1957

	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
	Non-Agricultural		Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All Other (including Business) Premises
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	13	7324	680
2. Number of properties infested as a result of:			
(a) Notification	-	181	38
(b) Survey under the Act	13	341	230
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-
3. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:			
(a) Rats	-	-	-
(Major)	2	111	43
(Minor)	-	-	-
(b) Mice	2	131	21
(Major)	-	-	-
(Minor)	-	-	-
4. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A.	4	242	64
5. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:			
(a) Treatment	-	-	-
(b) Structural Work	-	1	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

SECTION 50

BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

Under Section 50 of the Act, it is the duty of the local authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority.

An authority may recover expenses incurred from the estate of the deceased person or from any person who for the purposes of the Act was liable to maintain the deceased person immediately before his death.

Cremation must not be undertaken where the local authority have reason to believe that it would be contrary to the wishes of the deceased.

A regional hospital board has no power to provide for the burial of a person dying in hospital. Where, therefore, arrangements are not made by relatives or friends their responsibility will devolve on the local authority for the area in which the hospital is situated.

No. of persons buried by the Authority - 2

This is a decrease from year 1955

No application was made to cremate a body.

The Undertakers are:

Rhymney Valley	...	...	Mr. C. Wilde, New Tredegar
Sirhowy Valley	...	...	Mr. Herbert Jones, Blackwood

The Council have a contract with the above Undertakers to remove any dead person found on a highway, street or other public place to the Public Mortuary, or to the deceased's home if within the Council's area.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

No. of autopsies conducted in the Post Mortem
Room during the year 47

This is an increase from the year 1955 when there
were 44 autopsies

The Mortuary was used on four occasions during the year for the purpose of keeping the corpse until the day of the funeral.

During the year, it was found necessary to increase the charge to the Coroner for this service, due to extra expenses for maintenance, etc.

These premises are under my supervision and the part-time attendant is Mr. Elias Jones.

The cases dealt with were from:

Phillipstown	...	...	2
New Tredegar	...	...	9
Aberbargoed	...	...	6
Cefn Fforest	...	...	9
Fleur-de-lis	...	...	3
Blackwood	...	...	3
Argoed	...	...	5
Markham	...	...	1
Outside Areas	...	...	9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

SECTION 47

This Section provides for the removal of persons in need of care and attention to a suitable hospital or residential accommodation.

Special provision is made for securing the necessary care and attention for persons who:

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take action during the year under this Section.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING

The public service is done by direct labour three times a week under the supervision of Mr. T. J. Jones, Engineer and Surveyor.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 30 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. 26 of these cases were of the pulmonary type.

All homes of the cases were visited by your inspectors and a record card completed regarding the accommodation, particulars of the family, environmental conditions, etc.

The card also contains information on admission to, or discharge from sanatorium or hospital.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(A) FOOD SHOPS AND STORES

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption, were condemned and destroyed. This food was surrendered by the shopkeepers during regular inspection at food shops:-

Meat

120 lbs. beef
23 lbs. bacon
32 lbs. sausages

Canned Meats

20 tins jellied veal
42 tins stewed steak
50 tins luncheon meat
2 tins minced beef loaf
239 lbs. cooked ham
1 tin ox tongue
53 tins corned beef
4 tins pork brawn
9 lambs tongues

Canned Fruit

26 tins prunes
59 tins peaches
40 tins pears
32 tins apricots
9 tins raspberries
4 tins plums
6 tins damsons
59 tins pineapple
7 tins blackcurrants
14 tins grapefruit
2 tins apples
25 tins oranges
1 tin fruit salad
1 tin gooseberries
3 tins strawberries

Fish

3 tins pilchards
1 tin herrings
2 tins sardines
1 tin crab meat
3 tins salmon

Canned Vegetables

21 tins beans
2 tins carrots
38 tins peas
2 tins mixed vegetables
548 tins tomatoes
1 tin rhubarb

Dried Fruit & Vegetables

11 lbs. prunes 4 lbs. split peas

Other Foods

45 tins milk
12 tins soups
4 tins cream
66 lbs. cake mixture

3 tins rice
55 pkts shredded beef
suet

2 tins spaghetti
10 jars Welsh rarebit
1 bottle pickles

Approximate weight of foodstuffs condemned during 1956 was

1 ton 1 cwts. 0 qtr. 2 lbs.

(B) MILK SUPPLY

Below is a list of the number of various licences in force in this area for the sale of designated milks:

- (a) Dealers licences for sale of pasteurised milk.....26
- (b) Dealers licences for sale of tuberculin tested milk...13
- (c) Dealers licences for sale of T.T.Pasteurised milk..... 7
- (d) Dealers licences for sale of sterilised milk..... 6
- (e) Supplementary licences for sale of milk by vendors
from outside areas.....15

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination....41

Of this number 5 were not up to standard, and in these cases, the Clerk to the Council communicated with the vendor concerned.

(C) ICE CREAM

51 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1956, for the sale or storage of ice cream intended for sale. Practically all ice cream retailed in the district is pre-packed at the place of manufacture outside this Urban Area.

There are only 3 premises at which hot mix ice cream is manufactured in this area. A considerable amount of this type of ice cream is being sold by vendors coming into the area with their ice cream vans. Such vans are constantly supervised to ensure that they are properly equipped with hand washing facilities as required by the Food Hygiene Regulation, 1955.

(D) MEAT INSPECTION

There are no private slaughterhouses in the area. The meat supply comes from slaughterhouses situated in adjoining areas. The main source of supply to this district is the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Slaughterhouse, Maesycwmmwr, which is situated in the Bedwas and Machen area. The meat is inspected by a fully qualified meat inspector, Mr. Idwal Jones. Meat is also imported into this area from Brynmawr and Tredegar slaughterhouses. Full time qualified meat inspectors are employed at these places.

Below is an extract from the report of the Bedwas and Machen Inspector of the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned at the Maesycwmmwr slaughterhouse.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING 1956

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
2811	425	17492	7559

representing approximately 1,050 tons 17 cwts. 6 lbs.

The amount of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouse, was

15 tons 3 cwts. 0 qtrs. 26 lbs.

(E) FOOD AND DRUGS - SAMPLING

I am indebted to Mr. A. W. Prosser, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Monmouthshire County Council for the report on the work done by his Department in 1956, under the Food and Drugs Act, done in the Bedwellty Urban Area.

99 samples were taken, including 61 milk samples, 30 samples of other foods, 6 samples of ice cream and 2 beer samples.

96 samples were satisfactory, while 3 milk samples were not, according to standard required. The 3 samples of milk in question, consisted of 2 "In transit" samples and 1 "Appeal to Cow". The "Appeal to

Cow" sample showed that the deficiencies in the "In transit" samples were of abnormal composition, therefore, no further action was taken. The average Fat content was 3.63 per cent and the Solids not Fat 8.713 per cent

(F) PUBLIC HOUSES AND CLUBS

During the year, all Public Houses and Clubs were visited and inspected with special reference to the application of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. The visits were carried out during and out of licensing hours.

There was a general improvement in conditions from last year, but there were still six premises without adequate facilities for the washing of glasses. It is most important that glasses should be thoroughly clean because it must be remembered they are used by many people amongst whom may be persons suffering from a variety of diseases. Unless the glasses are properly cleansed, this may be the means of spreading disease.

Notices were served with regard to the following defects:

- (a) Lack of adequate handwashing facilities at five premises.
- (b) Lack of adequate glass washing facilities at six premises.
- (c) Improvement in decoration of bars (including floors and shelves) at eight premises.
- (d) Bar counter renovation at nineteen premises.
- (e) Dirty or chipped drinking glasses at seven premises.
- (f) Decoration in cellars required in seven premises.
- (g) Defects relating to sanitary conveniences at twenty-three premises.
- (h) Other minor defects at five premises.

No. of public houses inspected	...	...	32
No. of clubs inspected	...	...	21

Several of the premises were re-visited and a number of defects remedied.

In one public house it was considered that the urinal arrangement was unsatisfactory, not as a statutory nuisance, but offensive to public decency. The Council formally opposed the renewal of the licence at the Justices' Licensing Sessions at Blackwood. After discussion with the Brewery Company at the Court Room, the opposition of the Council was withdrawn. The Magistrates agreed to the withdrawal in order that the Brewery Company could consult the Council as to suitable urinal and sanitary arrangements and that the agreed plans be submitted to a later Brewster Sessions.

At the time of making this Report the new plans are being considered.

(G) FRIED FISH SHOPS

The total number of fried fish and chip shops in the area is 11 of which one is a mobile shop. The general standard of these shops was

(H) BAKEHOUSES

There are only two bakehouses in the area and these are very small premises. The bulk of the bread is produced from outside areas, generally by big firms.

During the year, the Department concentrated on the clean handling of bread by roundsmen and the delivery of bread in baskets from vans to the consumer. Although the larger firms are sympathetic with hygienic bread handling, the frequent changes of personnel engaged in delivery has necessitated constant health education in this matter. The public, especially the housewife, could help considerably if she insisted that all bread be delivered in a clean condition from a clean basket. The influence which they can bring to bear on the food retail trade is far more effective than any piece of legislation.

(I) CANTEENS, RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

All canteens, restaurants and cafes were inspected during the year.

No. of inspections made:-

School Canteens	...	...	...	...	17
Cafes	...	...	...	...	16
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	3
Pithead Canteens	...	...	...	...	8

In the main there is little doubt that the standard of cleanliness in these premises is maintained at a reasonably high standard.

Every opportunity is taken by your inspectors to stress upon the management and staff the importance of clean premises and food handlers, because the proper maintenance and cleanliness of places where food is stored or manufactured with clean food handlers is one of the fundamental principles of food hygiene. There is little chance of practising clean handling methods in premises which are dirty.

There are nine private restaurants in the area which cater for cooked meals. Most of these are in the Blackwood ward, but only one of these restaurants are able to provide a hot lunch or dinner - the Square Cafe.

School Canteens were kept in a satisfactory condition and it is pleasing to report that the staff employed in all canteens fully realise the importance of personal cleanliness. It is interesting to note that out of 5,601 pupils in the schools in the area, 4,723 take milk daily - approximately 200 gallons of milk is consumed in the schools per day.

Factory Canteens These places are kept at a reasonable high standard.

Pithead Canteens There are four canteens in the area and all are maintained at a high standard; the management and staff always comply with any reasonable suggestion made by our Department.

Food Hawkers - Section 114 Monmouthshire County Council Act, 1956

The Act provides for the registration of all persons not keeping open shop, who sells, offers or exposes for sale any food from or upon a vehicle, or from or upon a basket, pail, tray, table or other receptacle.

The premises used as storage accommodation for any food intended for sale from such vehicle or receptacle are also required to be registered.

Notification of premises used for sale of food - Section 115
Monmouthshire County Council Act

Any person intending to use any premises which were not so used before the appointed day, shall give not less than fourteen days notice to the local authority of his intention so to do, especially if the premises are to be used for the sale or exposure, storage and preparation for sale, any food (other than milk) intended for human consumption.

FOOD POISONING

There was one reported outbreak of food poisoning during the year. This patient had eaten food at a restaurant in the Cardiff District. The Public Health Department of the City Council were notified and they took immediate action in the matter.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

No. of new licences issued to slaughtermen	1
No. of renewals of licences for slaughtermen	5

I should again like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and the staff for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mrs. Baker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAN POWELL

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Number of Shops and Shop Assistants in the Bedwelly District during 1956

WARD	TYPE OF PREMISES				Where Food Hygiene Regs. 1956 Apply	SHOP ASSISTANTS				
	Shops	Sheds	Market Stalls	Total Prems.		Over 18 yrs	16-18 years	14-16 years	Self Employed	Total
New Tredegar	94	-	-	94	66	64	14	4	65	147
Aberbargoed	48	1	-	49	33	32	10	1	45	88
Pengam	43	-	-	43	30	19	5	8	36	68
Cefn Fforest	27	1	-	28	22	15	7	4	16	42
Blackwood	133	4	14	151	73	272	67	49	43	431
Argoed	10	1	-	11	10	9	1	1	5	16
Markham	9	2	-	11	9	15	7	2	7	31
Hollybush	2	-	-	2	2	3	-	1	1	5
TOTAL	366	9	14	389	245	429	111	70	218	828

63% of the shops sell food to which the Food Hygien Regulations,
1956 apply.

No. legal proceedings were instituted during the year, but several
warning letters were sent to small shopkeepers, in the side streets,
warning them of the practice of selling prohibited goods after the
the prescribed hours.

INDEX

Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Chief Public Health Inspector's Report	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Death Rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,9,17/19	
Death Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Deaths, National Assistance Act Burials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Food, Inspection and Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 & 24
Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infectious Diseases, Causes and Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Infectious Diseases, General Remarks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26 & 32
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Medical Officer of Health's Report	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Summary of Statistics	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis, Distribution in last 12 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Tuberculosis, New Cases and Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Tuberculosis, Occupational Incidence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Tuberculosis, Sanatorium and Hospital Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculosis, Notifications and Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

